Act, 1955 during 2004, 2005 and 2006 are as under:—

Year	Number of cases
2004	**126**
2005	**453**
2006	**454**

Schools for blind and deaf children

2925. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry runs schools for blind and deaf children;

(b) if so, the details of such schools being run across the country;

(c) whether NGOs have approached the Ministry to takeover the running of schools for deaf and blind children run by them; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No, Sir. The Ministry does not run schools for blind and deaf children. However, the Ministry has been supporting an autonomous body, namely National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehradun and Non-Governmental Organizations for running such schools.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

National Overseas Scholarship Scheme

2926. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of students who have been awarded scholarship under the National Overseas Scholarship Scheme during the last and current academic session in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether Government has taken steps to make awareness about this scheme for optimum utilization by those students;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the proposed number of beneficiaries under this scheme for the Eleventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON): (a) Under the scheme of National Overseas Scholarships for Scheduled Tribe candidates, during the Tenth Plan period, upto 10 provisional awards could be granted every year so as to enable the selected candidates to obtain admission in any recognised foreign university followed by final awards. In 2007-08,2 students were sanctioned final awards to proceed for studies abroad and one of them was from Tamil Nadu.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Applications are invited under the Scheme through advertisements, published in various news-papers (national as well as regional), and also posted on the website of the Ministry.